

Your Voice

Let me hear from you!

Upcoming Meetings

July 17, 2001

Guest: King County
Assessor Scott Noble
Federal Way Library
848 S. 320th St.
Federal Way
7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

July 31, 2001

Guest: King County
Sheriff Dave Reichert
Federal Way Senior Center
4016 S. 352nd St, Auburn
7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

September 2001

Guest: King County
Prosecutor Norm Maleng
Date and Place to be
Determined
7:00 to 8:30 p.m.



Councilmember Pete von Reichbauer is the current Chair of the Metropolitan King County Council.

South King County BallField Park History

In 1993, South King County's ballfields shortage became clear when the Steel Lake Little League learned it would lose the six ballfields it had leased for more than a quarter of a century. The City of Seattle, which owned the original ballfield site and adjacent property at the Kent Highlands, had decided to sell the land and wouldn't renew the league's lease. Because other baseball fields in the surrounding area were already over capacity there were few alternatives. The league's nearly 800 players, children between the ages of five and eighteen, faced a possible future without baseball.

South County residents were shocked that those hundreds of young athletes might be unable to find suitable playing fields in a region building two professional sports stadiums. Councilmember Pete von Reichbauer formed the "Little League Sports Summit" to

explore options to save Steel Lake Little League's ballfields and address the growing shortage of South King County sports fields. The group included members from the private sector, King County Councilmembers, King County Parks Department, representatives of the Steel Lake Little League, and representatives of the King County Executive's office. When efforts to acquire the Kent Highlands site failed, the present site at S. 352nd Street and Military Road was identified as the best available alternative.

The King County Council allocated \$1 million in 1996 to purchase the 22-acre site and a subsequent \$1.8 million to develop the park and ball fields. The site was zoned R-4 and if the

ballfields weren't planned, the land could have been developed with as many as 88 houses.

Over the course of two years Councilmember von Reichbauer held seven public meetings in the surrounding neighborhood in order to involve neighbors in the park's design. Local



Councilmember Pete von Reichbauer (right) joined with County Executive Ron Sims (center) for the groundbreaking ceremonies

Ballfield History *continued*

residents helped identify parking, traffic, and other concerns. The final project design addressed many of the issues raised in the public meetings and added playgrounds, picnic areas, and other amenities to provide benefits to the surrounding community.

One such concern was voiced after the opening of the park. Area residents noticed a high number of vehicles parked in the area. Consequently, with

Sims held groundbreaking ceremonies on July 14, 1998. The sports fields opened for play June 11, 1999, Phase II of the park is now complete.

The South King County Ballfield Park includes 4 little league baseball fields and one adult league softball field. The park serves a number of youth and adults who play baseball and softball. Games will be played predominantly in the spring and summer.



Councilmember Pete von Reichbauer congratulates Little League players.

the help of Councilmember von Reichbauer, an ordinance was passed restricting parking in the area. This encourages individuals to use the available onsite parking and does not infringe on the neighbors' quality of life.

The construction contract was awarded to Fuji Industries Inc. on June 1998, and Councilmember von Reichbauer and County Executive Ron

Phase I

- Purchase of 22-acre site
- Construction of four little league baseball fields
- 203 paved parking stall and 100 unpaved stalls
- Two turn lanes on S. 352nd to provide safe entrance to park
- Design, wetlands delineation, environmental impact statement and soils testing
- Construction of perimeter walking trail
- Phase completed: June 1999
- Total Phase I cost: \$1.3 million

Phase II

- Construction of adult league softball field
- Restroom facilities
- Children's play area with playground equipment
- Picnic area with portable picnic tables
- Phase II completed: June 2000
- Total Phase II cost: \$1.2 million
- TOTAL PROJECT COST: \$2.5 million



**Councilmember
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von Reichbauer**

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